

**DATE/TIME:** February 15, 2011; 9-10:30 a.m. (EDT)

**FILE CODE:** 20074350

**LOCATION:** Westfield Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT:** US 31 Hamilton County 2011 updates

**Attendees:** Hank Arszman, Bill Culpepper, Brad Davis, Mike Dearing, Ron Farrand, Monica Faurote, Sue Finkam, David Haboush, Matt Hoffman, Melody Jones, David Littlejohn, Eric Lohe, Jim Neal, Bob Robey, Rick Sharp, Matt Skelton, Bob Smith, Neil VanTrees, Nick Verhoff, Kurt Wanninger, Cindy Olson

**US 31 Team Members:** Emily Elmore, Steve Fleming, Jill Hoffman, Dawn Kroh, Scott Minor, Kelli McNamara, Gary Pence, Jason Rowley, Lisa Tellus and Will Wingfield.

Notes by: Emily Elmore

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**PURPOSE:** To provide project updates regarding 146th Street Bridge construction, SR 38 construction, and interchange updates related to the areas of Monon Trail to 156th Street, 126th Street to 136th Street, 161st Street and SR 32. The team also shared updates on CSS and ended with a Q&A session.

**DISCUSSION:** Led by Gary Pence, Jason Rowley, Steve Fleming and Dawn Kroh

Introductions were made by Lisa Tellus. An overview of the agenda was given and CAC members were reminded of their responsibilities. Lisa explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide updates in the areas of public involvement, design, construction and CSS.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATES:**

Lisa Tellus gave an overview and review of public outreach efforts in 2010. She explained that a public open house was held in May 2010 and that business outreach communications were launched in September 2010. She also explained that throughout 2010, the team had coordinated more than 60 meetings with developers, stakeholders and city officials in Carmel and Westfield. Lisa also provided a glance at what is to come in 2011. In January, an e-newsletter was distributed. A project groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for spring. The team is conducting research to further populate the public outreach database and they are placing outreach materials along the corridor. Also, business owners will be updated in affected areas and a public open house will be scheduled for late summer 2011.

**CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE:**

Gary Pence then presented INDOT updates. He mentioned construction to widen the 146th Street Bridge is scheduled to begin spring 2011 and the bridge widening is expected to be open to traffic before the 2011 holiday season. Also, he said construction at SR 38 is scheduled to begin spring 2011 and is anticipated to be open to traffic in fall 2012. Gary explained that the SR 38 interchange is a two year construction project, which is on schedule for letting on Feb. 23. The US 31 mainline construction, between the Monon Trail and 156th Street is anticipated to start during the fall 2011 and is expected to be open to traffic in 2013. The Segment 5 letting is scheduled for September 2011 for the US 31 mainline construction. Contract 7 is scheduled to let in July 2012. Gary displayed a graph which depicted the construction sequencing plan and a table which showed funding for the US 31 project (each year from 2011-2017) - totaling \$435.2 million. Attendees were encouraged to ask Gary questions during a quick Q&A session.

**146th STREET BRIDGE WIDENING:**

Jason Rowley followed Gary with an elaboration of the construction timing and final layout for the bridge project. Jason explained that the letting for the bridge occurred on January 12, 2011 and six bidders participated in the process. Beatty Construction was the lowest bidder and came in with a bid under estimated costs. Jason said the project will be a stand-alone construction contract and is expected to be open to traffic before the 2011 holiday season. Then, he showed an aerial shot of what the 146th Street interchange and described it as a "half diamond" interchange with the other half at 151st Street with frontage roads in between. This interchange will include a lot of signage since commuter decisions need to be made early to access shopping and other businesses. Jason explained that construction extends from Western Way/Clay Terrace Blvd. to Lowes Way/Greyhound Pass. Also, he said the 146th Street bridge will be widened to the south by about 25 feet, there will be new retaining walls built from Western Way to Lowes Way on the south side, and walls on the north side of 146th Street will stay put. Signals at Western Way and Lowes Way will be synchronized, an existing bridge deck will be replaced and when complete, there will be a total of eight lanes comprised of two through lanes and two left-turn lanes in each direction between the Clay Terrace Boulevard and Greyhound Pass intersections. In addition, there will be a multi-use path across the widened bridge. During construction, Jason explained that the bridge will be restricted to one lane per direction, plus turn lanes. Jason also showed a before and after aerial shot of the 146th Street overpass. Attendees were instructed to direct their questions regarding the bridge project to Jason during a quick Q&A session.

**SR 38 CONSTRUCTION:**

Steve Fleming updated the attendees about the SR 38 construction timing and final layout. Steve explained that the contract is anticipated to let on February 23, 2011 and the project is expected to be open to traffic in December 2012. Also, he showed an aerial photo of before and after shots of SR 38 and landscaping visuals of what travelers will see on SR 38.

Overall Project Updates: Steve Fleming continued by updating the CAC on other aspects of the project. Westfield has requested design changes for SR 32 as a result, the team is re-evaluating and looking at a SPUI option. A SPUI includes one signal to help with movements. These signals are more expensive and unique. A similar signal is located at I-465 and Emerson Avenue. In the fall the I-465 and Allisonville Road will have one. Since the last CAC meeting, no major design changes have occurred to interchanges.

Steve mentioned that the City of Westfield is looking into downtown improvements and came up with an option for SR 32 by the school which may include roundabouts east and west of the interchange (Poplar Street and East Street.)

Steve then reviewed the design for the US 31 Monon Trail and 156th Street intersection. As of now, Keystone Parkway from Lowes Avenue to US 31 is anticipated to be closed for four months in each direction. On the 126th Street overpass and 131st Street interchange, the team plans to lower the road in areas and reshuffle the water to make sure water from the streets doesn't go into the hole created by this move. At 136th Street, 60 percent of design is in ROW process and the team is doing whole and partial takes. At 161<sup>st</sup> Street, Mayor Cook raised a question about early action improvements. He asked if there is something short term that can be done to alleviate short term problems around two neighborhoods in the area.

Utilities: Steve then led a discussion regarding utilities. He said all projects involve extensive utility relocations. When land is available, utilities are provided a utility corridor for relocation. Utility crews are separate from INDOT and set their own schedules. Therefore, often times, it is hard for the team to time their work.

Right of Way: As of now, approximately 150 parcels are in the land acquisition phase. Steve reviewed the current ROW charts and explained that the yellow areas represent properties that are in appraisal. The green outlines the properties that are in the land acquisition process, and the red properties are those in condemnation.

#### **CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS:**

Dawn Kroh provided CSS updates. She showed landscape plans for Segments 5 and 7 and displayed an illustration of the proposed MSE wall formliners. The CSS team has worked with locals to determine the concept and design for the hardscape and landscape. Ideas to revegetate the corridor (that are workable and maintainable) were presented to INDOT. Dawn further explained some of the aesthetics, which include approval to have vines growing up the MSE walls, and limited the use of turf where possible. Dawn outlined that both a cruciform and MSE wall will be constructed at 146th Street and showed an illustration for each. Dawn also mentioned that there will be a concrete rail and pedestrian trail on the south side of the 146th Street Bridge.

**CLOSING:**

The meeting ended with a general discussion and quick Q&A session. Lisa gave the closing remarks and emphasized that meeting minutes will be posted to the website. She also reminded attendees about the timing of groundbreaking and suggested they anticipate a public meeting in the summer with a CAC meeting prior.